

County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

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BRYCE YOKOMIZO  
Director



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May 26, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryce Yokomizo', is written over the 'TO:' line.

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES  
(BOARD ORDER #SYN 10 – JANUARY 11, 2005)**

This is to provide your Board with the fourth monthly report on the Skid Row outreach strategies implemented to identify and address the immediate needs of homeless families on Skid Row. In April, 52 families were served by the Skid Row Outreach Team and/or DPSS staff outstationed at the Weingart Access Center, for a total of 220 families served since implementation on January 18, 2005.

Additionally, this is to provide you with a status report on all of the intervention strategies implemented since January 2005 and our plan regarding the continuation of these interventions in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-06.

**CalWORKs Homeless Families Project**

This project helps CalWORKs homeless families secure permanent housing through intensive services from DMH, DPSS, and LAHSA. In December 2004, your Board authorized funding this project through June 30, 2005 to serve a total of 350 families throughout the County. To date, 241 families and 512 children are enrolled in the project. Out of the 241, 26 families have been placed in permanent housing, 43 are in transitional housing, 66 are staying with friends/relatives, 47 are staying in motels/hotels, and 59 have been placed in emergency shelters. We intend to extend our contract with LAHSA, as previously authorized by your Board, to continue funding the project through September 30, 2005. Once the State Budget is final and we have received our CalWORKs Single Allocation from the State, we will re-evaluate whether to continue funding the project through the rest of FY 2005-06.

### Homeless Families Benefits Access Team

To facilitate access to benefits and services for homeless families, since January 18, 2005, eligibility staff have been outstationed at the Weingart Access Center in Skid Row to process applications for CalWORKs benefits and homeless services. Since implementation, staff at the Weingart Access Center have served a total of 97 families, including those families referred by the Midnight Mission or the Skid Row Outreach Team.

Given this small number of families that have been served at the Weingart Access Center (an average of one family per day), we intend to modify the current strategy in the Skid Row area and implement this modified strategy countywide. Specifically, we intend to have eligibility staff in each district office throughout the county "on call" during the work week to facilitate access to benefits and services for homeless families, similar to the protocols established with the Midnight Mission prior to implementation of the Homeless Families Benefits Access Team. This approach will provide access to benefits for homeless families which is comparable to the Benefits Access Team through a more efficient use of DPSS eligibility staff.

### Skid Row Family Outreach Team

On February 15, 2005, we implemented the Skid Row Family Outreach Team to identify homeless families on Skid Row and connect them with available benefits and services. Since implementation, the team has served a total of 145 families. Although we intend to maintain this intervention in the Skid Row area, we do not intend to expand this specific approach into other areas of the county, because this approach is uniquely suited to the high density and limited size of Skid Row. Homeless families in other areas will be served by the "on call" DPSS eligibility staff in the district offices, as described above. LAHSA, DMH, and DCFS have agreed to work with us in developing a countywide on-call response system as well, which will complement the on-call DPSS eligibility staff.

### Temporary Homeless Assistance Program (THAP)+14

Through this program, DPSS supplements the State's Temporary Homeless Assistance program, providing an additional 14 days of temporary emergency shelter payments. This strategy allows families two additional weeks to stay in hotels/motels while they continue to search for permanent housing. Since implementation on January 18, 2005 through March 31, 2005, a total of 1,409 families have been served, with \$591,610 in payments. We intend to continue funding this program through September 30, 2005. Once the State Budget is final and we have received our CalWORKs Single Allocation from the State, we will re-evaluate whether to continue funding this program through the rest of FY 2005-06.

### Short-Term Rental Subsidy

Effective January 18, 2005, DPSS implemented its Rental Assistance program. Under this program, families receiving Permanent Homeless Assistance or Moving Assistance can qualify for a monthly rental subsidy of up to \$250 per family (based on family size) for up to four consecutive months. As of March 31, 2005, 65 families had accessed the program, with \$13,807 in payments. Given the shortage of affordable housing in the County, we intend to continue funding this program through FY 2005-06.

### Emergency Housing and Services

Effective January 11, 2005, LAHSA began providing emergency housing and services for CalWORKs homeless families, through a combination of emergency shelter beds and motel vouchers. On May 31, 2005, your Board will consider my recommendation to allocate \$750,000 to extend the current contract with LAHSA for emergency shelter and services through September 30, 2005. Once the State Budget is final and we have received our CalWORKs Single Allocation from the State, we will re-evaluate whether to continue funding this program through the remainder of FY 2005-06.

### Home-Based Case Management

As confirmed by the CalWORKs Homeless Families report which I submitted to your Board on May 11, 2005, individual circumstances rather than income distinguish CalWORKs homeless families from CalWORKs families that are not homeless, indicating that case management is key in serving this population. To address these individual circumstances, a case management pilot was implemented on May 16, 2005 at the San Gabriel Valley district office. Countywide implementation is targeted for July 2005.

All CalWORKs homeless families will have a case manager to facilitate access to services, initiate referrals, and move the family out of homelessness and into permanent housing. The array of services include crisis intervention, short-term stabilization, needs assessment, employment services, and an individualized housing plan. To ensure all homeless families are screened/case managed, district office protocols are being implemented in conjunction with Home-Based Case Management.

Screening for Endangered/At-Risk Children

To determine whether children in homeless families are endangered/at-risk, DPSS and DCFS staff developed a screening tool for this purpose. DPSS implemented use of this tool on March 1, 2005 at the Weingart Access Center and the Skid Row Family Outreach Team, and on May 16, 2005, at the Home-Based Case Management Pilot in the San Gabriel Valley district office. The screening tool will be expanded Countywide with full implementation of the Home-Based Case Managers in all CalWORKs district offices in July 2005.

Housing Counselors/Relocation Specialists

This summer, we intend to implement a pilot for contracted relocation services to assist homeless families in locating permanent, affordable housing. This staff will coordinate with our new home-based case managers, and will have primary responsibility for identifying appropriate neighborhoods and affordable housing for families, overcoming barriers to obtaining housing (e.g., poor credit and evictions), negotiating with landlords, and maintaining a database of available housing. Following the pilot, an RFP will be conducted to begin contract services countywide in early 2006.

Toll-Free Hotline for Homeless Families

With the implementation in July 2005 of the 2-1-1 toll-free number in Los Angeles County, we will add all CalWORKs homeless and housing services to the 2-1-1 process to facilitate access by homeless and at-risk families as well as homeless service providers.

Once the State Budget is adopted and we know our CalWORKs Single Allocation for FY 2005-06, we will provide your Board with our plan for these programs for the last three quarters of FY 2005-06.

BY:js

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Director, Children and Family Services  
Director, Mental Health  
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority  
Public Counsel

# MONTHLY REPORT ON SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES

## April 2005

	This month	Since 1/18/05
<b>I. Referrals</b>		
A. Number of families served		
1. Walk-ins at Weingart Access Center	10	56
2. Referred by Midnight Mission/Other Shelters	4	19
3. Referred by Skid Row Outreach Team	38	145
a. Taken to the Weingart Access Center	7	22
b. Not taken to the Weingart Access Center	31	123
4. <b>Total (from A.1, 2 and 3)</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>220</b>
B. Number of families already on CalWORKs	20	94
C. Number of families referred to CalWORKs	1	13
D. Contacted by Skid Row Team and declined CalWORKs referral	31	119
<b>II. Assistance</b>		
A. CalWORKs Applicants (from I.C)		
1. Approved and issued CalWORKs	1	2
2. Denied CalWORKs (i.e., excess income, working full-time)	1	8
a. Referred for emergency shelter	1	8
3. Not processed (client walked out)	2	3
4. <b>Total (Same as I.C)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
B. Homeless Services (from I.B)		
1. Approved and issued homeless services (Homeless Assistance)	30	54
2. Denied homeless services (not homeless, exhausted benefits)	10	18
a. Referred for emergency shelter	9	15
b. Staying with friends/relatives	1	3
3. Refused DPSS services	1	3
4. <b>Total (Same as I.B)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>III. Services</b>		
Families who were referred to/are receiving services from:		
1. Welfare-to-Work (from I.B + II.A.1)	29	96
a. In GAIN/Employed	10	70
b. GAIN Exempt (disabled, child under one, caring for disabled relative, adult not aided, etc.)	8	22
c. Time Limited	2	4
2. Department of Mental Health (DMH):	9	30
a. Evaluation for the CalWORKs Homeless Families Project	3	8
b. Clinical Assessment	6	22
c. Crisis Intervention	0	0
d. Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) evaluation	0	0
3. Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS):	0	1
a. Child Protective Services/Hotline	0	0
b. Family Support Services (i.e., family intervention, counseling, alternative resources, etc.)	0	1
<b>IV. Outcomes of CalWORKs Families</b>		
A. In permanent housing	2	
B. In transitional housing	0	
C. In emergency shelter/hotel/motel	88	
D. Sharing housing with friend/relative	1	
E. CalWORKs case terminated due to the following reason:	0	
1. Excess Income	0	
2. No eligible child/ren in the home	0	
3. No QR 7	0	
4. Failed annual CalWORKs redetermination	0	
5. Client's request	0	
6. Moved out of state/county	0	
F. <b>Total (Same as II.B.4)</b>	<b>91</b>	